TABLET DOCKING STATION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention is in the field of tablet docking stations.

DISCUSSION OF RELATED ART

[0002] Tablet computers have become more popular such as with Android™ and iPad™ panel personal computers since the advent of more powerful and energy-efficient processors and related chipsets. Tablets can be docked to a housing having a charging port and fan, such as described in U.S. Pat. No. 6,837,058, to inventor Mc Euen, issued Jan. 4, 2005 entitled Tablet Air Cooling Dock the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Tablet docks typically are connected to a wiring harness through an electrical connector and provide battery charging for the tablet computer as well as data transfer to peripherals. The tablet computer typically has a touchscreen which is accessible when the tablet is docked. Smart phones are also tablet computers which now have touchscreen capability as well as CDMA and GSM radio functionality. Smart phones also have docks for charging and providing music functionality since they are also small versions of tablet computers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] A tablet docking station comprising a tablet dock configured for receiving a tablet, an upper post extending from the tablet dock, and an extension arm extending from the upper post. The spray tubing can be mounted to the extension arm. The spray tubing provides a water mist for cooling a user when the spray is activated. The tablet docking station optionally includes a fan assembly including a fan housing. The spray tubing has one or more spray outlets configured to provide a water mist for evaporative cooling of an area near a user. The tablet docking station may provide an electronic control for the fan assembly providing a fan control speed adjustable by a graphical user interface on the tablet.

[0004] Additionally, a canopy shade can be attached to the extension arm for shading a user. A photovoltaic element is preferably formed on an upper surface of the canopy shade. The photovoltaic element provides an electric current for the tablet dock. An LED light can be mounted on the extension arm to provide light for a user. An electronic lighting control for the LED light can allow the electronic lighting control to be adjustable by a graphical user interface on the tablet, such as a slider bar shown on the tablet screen. An optional heat sensor can be mounted on a cooking device such as a smoker or barbecue grill so that the heat sensor sends a temperature signal to the tablet. The central processing unit of the tablet can integrate the temperature signal over time for providing a cooking program that terminates by alerting a user using an alarm that is provided on the tablet by the tablet operating system. Preferably, a niche receives a tablet area for receiving a tablet. The tablet docking station also preferably includes a tablet shade formed on the tablet dock.

BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0005] FIG. **1** is a diagram of a tablet docking station with a fan assembly.

[0006] FIG. **2** is a diagram of a tablet docking station with a shade.

[0007] The following call out list of elements can be a useful guide in referencing the elements of the drawings.

[0008] **20** fan assembly
[0009] **21** fan housing
[0010] **22** fan blade
[0011] **23** led light
[0012] **24** spray tubing
[0013] **25** spray mist
[0014] **26** canopy shade
[0015] **27** spray tubing openings
[0016] **31** extension arm
[0017] **32** arm joint
[0018] **33** upper post
[0019] **34** insulated chest
[0020] **35** chest lid
[0021] **36** base post
[0022] **37** chest base
[0023] **38** base footing
[0024] **40** tablet dock
[0025] **41** angled resting plank
[0026] **42** tablet connector base
[0027] **43** table top
[0028] **44** towel hook
[0029] **45** tongs hook
[0030] **46** towel
[0031] **47** tongs
[0032] **48** fork
[0033] **49** table side
[0034] **50** bbq grill
[0035] **51** grill frame
[0036] **52** grill cover
[0037] **53** cooking surface
[0038] **54** flame control knob
[0039] **55** storage cabinet
[0040] **56** wheel
[0041] **57** grill cover handle
[0042] **58** table arm extension
[0043] **59** speakers
[0044] **80** tablet area
[0045] **81** tablet shade
[0046] **82** tablet niche
[0047] **88** tablet
[0048] **89** heat sensor

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0049] The present invention is a tablet docking station for a tablet **88** having a tablet dock **40** which has been optimized for barbecue outdoor usage. The tablet dock is preferably an electrical connector that is connected to a wire harness and the wire harness can be powered by a photovoltaic panel on the shade, or by a direct current power supply which has a plug for receiving household electric current in an alternating current standard that is converted to direct current at the tablet dock. The electrical connector can be a standard or proprietary electrical connector and can be recessed as part of the tablet dock **40**, or can be separately formed on the tablet dock **40** with a power cord, data cord or a combination power and data cord.

[0050] The tablet rests on a tablet area **80** that is defined between an angled resting plank **41** and a tablet connector base **42**. The tablet area **80** is a resting area for the tablet. The angled resting plank **41** is preferably perpendicular to the tablet connector base **42**. The angled resting plank **41** can